

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Volunteers of America, Dakotas is celebrating 80 years of service in the Sioux Falls community, starting as a child care center in 1923 to serve families during World War I, and has been recognized as one of the longest running, non-profit child care agencies in the nation; and,

Whereas, Volunteers of America, Dakotas currently has over 40 programs, 375 professionally trained full- and part-time employees, and over 400 volunteers that serve over 13,000 individuals throughout the Dakotas; and,

Whereas, Volunteers of America, Dakotas assists people of all ages in moving toward a brighter future through prevention, education, training, counseling, treatment, child care, housing, and residential services; and,

Whereas, On a daily basis, Volunteers of America, Dakotas provides child care and family enrichment activities to over 300 children and their families, and also provides free meals, recreational, and educational activities to over 200 youth (ages 8-20) at the Bowden Youth Center; and,

Whereas, Throughout the year, Volunteers of America, Dakotas provides residential, educational, and therapeutic services to over 1,400 troubled and runaway youth, pregnant teens, youth with substance abuse or with challenging behaviors, and assists over 100 individuals in receiving their GED or high school diploma; and,

Whereas, Volunteers of America, Dakotas also serves over 4,000 individuals and families by providing counseling, mediation, and training, and assists over 500 adults with career goals, computer training, and employment services on an annual basis as well; and,

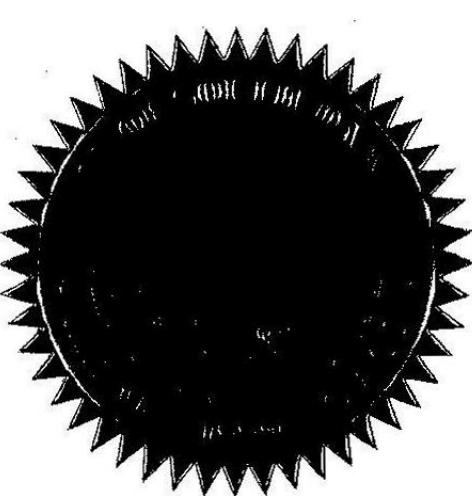
Whereas, Volunteers of America, Dakotas will celebrate this momentous occasion during the Month of May, beginning with a breakfast on May 1, 2003, to thank all of its "partners" in the community for their loyal support:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2003, as

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA, DAKOTAS DAY

in South Dakota, and I urge our citizens to commend this observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirtieth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.



M. Michael Rounds
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:



Chris Nelson, Secretary of State